

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SR-02

ORM-01 SCA-01 VO-03 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AID-05 FDRE-00 /071 W
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O R 190622Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3021

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6817

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, TH

SUBJ: ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: STATE 089680

1. EVERYTHING IN REFTELS IS WELCOME NEWS EXCEPT FOR LACK OF SPECIFICS ON TIMING OF ONWARD MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES. IT MAY BE ACCEPTABLE THAT THEY WILL NOT MOVE "EN MASSE", BUT THEY ALL MUST MOVE SOONEST.

2. AS DEPT STATES, OUR "EXCELLENT ARRANGEMENTS" WITH RTG FOR CAMBODIANS WILL FACILITATE THE WORK OF VOLAGS AND ALL OTHERS WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN RESETTLEMENT EFFORT, BUT TIME FOR THIS TO BE DONE IS RUNNING OUT. AS REPORTED IN PARA 2 B OF OUR 6513, THE RTG AGREED TO LETTING THE EVACUEES STAY IN THAILAND FOR "AN INITIAL PERIOD OF 30 DAYS FROM THEIR DATE OF ARRIVAL" AND WOULD "CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE EMBASSY TO EXTEND THIS PERIOD" TO COMPLETE THEIR PROCESSING AND ONWARD MOVEMENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS SINCE THEN INFORMED THE CHARGE THAT THE PRESENCE OF THESE REFUGEES IS CREATING SERIOUS POLITICAL
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PROBLEMS FOR THE RTG AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS WOULD POSE

MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THEM. A NUMBER OF EVACUEES
HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN COUNTRY FOR OVER TWO WEEKS AND THE
MAJORITY HAVE BEEN HERE FOR MORE THAN TEN DAYS.

3. CONSIDERING ALL THE PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THIS
PART OF THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE GROWING CONCERN AMONG
THE THAIS ABOUT THE IMMINENCE OF MORE REFUGEE PROBLEMS,
WE MUST TAKE THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT SERIOUSLY.
WE WILL PASS THIS ON TO THE UNHCR AND ICEM REPRESENTATIVES,
AND WE ASK THAT THE DEPT PASS THE WORD TO THE COUNCIL OF
VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE MOST URGENT TERMS.

4. WE WILL ASSIST CHRISTENSEN OF ICEM IN EVERY WAY
POSSIBLE UPON HIS ARRIVAL. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE
THAIS WILL BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO ICEM'S OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE
THAN THEY HAVE BEEN DISPOSED TO BE TO UNHCR'S (OURTEL 6798).

5. TIME IS OUR PROBLEM. ALL ELSE LOOKS HOPEFUL.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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